

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 522

Introduced by Assembly Member Diaz

February 18, 2003

An act to add Section 1227 to the Government Code, relating to Matriculas Consular.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 522, as introduced, Diaz. Public officers and employees: identity of individuals.

Existing law provides for the issuance of driver's licenses and identification cards by the Department of Motor Vehicles, as specified.

This bill would require every public officer or employee to accept for purposes of personal identification an identification card issued by the Mexican Consulate Office, to the extent permitted by federal law, the same as a driver's license or identification card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles, or Matricula Consular, except when possession of a valid driver's license is required by law. The bill would also set forth the findings and declarations of the Legislature in this regard.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

1 (a) Mexican Consular identification cards, or Matriculas
2 Consular, are state-of-the-art and contain various security
3 safeguards designed to prevent falsification.

4 (b) Various large metropolitan cities and counties, including
5 the City of Los Angeles, the County of Los Angeles, the City and
6 County of San Francisco, the City of Oakland, the County of Santa
7 Clara and the County of Santa Cruz, currently accept the Matricula
8 Consular as an official identification card.

9 (c) Various financial institutions, such as Wells Fargo Bank,
10 Bank of America, California Credit Union, and California Union
11 Bank, accept the Matricula Consular as well; and since November
12 2001, Mexican immigrants have opened new bank accounts and
13 deposited over fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) in banks
14 throughout California.

15 SEC. 2. Section 1227 is added to the Government Code, to
16 read:

17 1227. To the extent permitted by federal law, every public
18 officer or employee shall accept for purposes of personal
19 identification an identification card issued by the Mexican
20 Consulate Office, or Matricula Consular, as equivalent to a
21 driver's license or identification card issued by the Department of
22 Motor Vehicles, except when possession of a valid driver's license
23 is required by law.

